IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method of treating perfluorocompound (PFC) gas comprising the steps of:

decomposing at least one of SF_6 and NF_3 present in the PFC gas by any method selected from the group consisting of hydrolysis, oxidation decomposition, combustion, and thermal decomposition,

washing the gas generated by said decomposition by making said gas contact with at least one of water and an aqueous alkaline solution, and

exhausting the washed gas, wherein

said step of exhausting the washed gas is performed after removing at least one of SO_x and NO_x accompanying water, which are decomposition products of said at least one of SF_6 and NF_3, from said washed gas.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of treating perfluorocompound (PFC) gas comprising the steps of:

decomposing at least one of SF_6 and NF_3 present in the PFC gas by diluting said at least one of SF_6 and NF_3 with nitrogen,

and contacting the diluted gas with a decomposition catalyst in the presence of air and water,

washing the gas generated by said decomposition by making said gas contact with at least one of water and an aqueous alkaline solution, and

exhausting the washed gas, wherein

said step of exhausting the washed gas is performed after removing at least one of SO_x and NO_x accompanying water, which are decomposition products of said at least one of SF_6 and NF_3, from said washed gas.

Claims 5-10 (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method of treating perfluorocompound (PFC) gas comprising the steps of:

decomposing a PFC gas which contains at least one of SF_6 and NF_3 by any method selected from the group consisting of hydrolysis, oxidation decomposition, combustion, and thermal decomposition,

washing the decomposed gas, which contains PFC decomposition products including HF and at least one of SO_x and NO_x generated by said decomposition, by making said decomposed gas contact with at least one of water and an aqueous alkaline

solution to make the PFC decomposition products be absorbed therein, and

exhausting waste gas resulting from the washing, wherein

said step of exhausting the waste gas resulting from the washing is performed after removing mist in the waste gas for removing the PFC decomposition products accompanied with the mist.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of treating perfluorocompound (PFC) gas according to claim 11, wherein said decomposition of the PFC gas is performed by hydrolysis, including contacting the PFC gas with a decomposition catalyst in the presence of air and water.

13. (New) A method of treating perfluorocompound (PFC) gas comprising the sequential steps of:

decomposing at least one of SF_6 and NF_3 present in the PFC gas by any method selected from the group consisting of hydrolysis, oxidation decomposition, combustion, and thermal decomposition;

washing the gas generated by said decomposition with water;

removing mist from the exhaust of said water-washed gas by a cyclone; and

exhausting the gas of said mist-removed gas of said water-washed gas outside the treating system.

14. (New) A method of treating perfluorocompound (PFC) gas according to claim 13, wherein said removed mist is collected and retained in a tank as an HF-containing wastewater before discharging outside the treatment system.

15. (New) A method of treating perfluorocompound (PFC) gas according to claim 13, wherein the velocity of said exhaust of said water-washed gas at the inlet of said cyclone is from 10 meters per second to 30 meters per second.

16. (New) A method of treating perfluorocompound (PFC) gas according to claim 13, wherein said cyclone comprises any material selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl chloride and acrylic resin.